

Subject: OWW Hot Topics, Week of 11/26 - 11/30
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OD/AD whereabouts, week of 12/3 - 12/7:

Dan plans to be in the office Mon-Thurs.
Christine plans to be in the office all week.

This Week:

Boise River: Various EPA staff met with Liz Paul of Idaho Rivers United to discuss a range of issues related to the Boise River, including the City of Boise's permit, permits for other municipalities, year-round limits for phosphorus, connections to the Snake River and Brownlee Reservoir, and the role of stakeholders in the various processes. The wide-ranging conversations seemed to be constructive.

Washington Sediment Management Standards: We continued our efforts to determine the best approach for addressing in a Clean Water Act context Ecology's intended revisions to its SMS. We participated in a briefing for Besty Southerland, Director of EPA's Office of Science and Technology, who in turn plans to participate in our update for Dennis on Dec. 4. Meanwhile, Angela Chung and key staff travelled to Olympia on Friday for additional conversations with Ecology Water Quality and Toxics Cleanup staff.

Coeur d'Alene LakeTributary TMDLs: We approved a package of 20 TMDLS developed by Idaho DEQ to address identified temperature impairments.

Idaho Human Health Criteria/Fish Consumption Rate: Staff travelled to Boise to participate in the second stakeholder meeting convened as part of Idaho's negotiated rule making process. Industry participation was notably light. Meanwhile, we prepared for RA signature a letter to select Idaho tribes who requested consultation regarding the potential for EPA to utilize GAP monies in a contract tribal consumption survey work for tribes in Idaho. With a tight timeline for securing the monies and in consideration of busy calendars, we are hopeful that written answers to their specific questions either will adequately address their concerns or allow for a follow-up consultation by phone (rather than in person, as requested) that will lead to resolution.

Yakima Valley Nitrates: We prepared for RA signature a letter denying Rep. Doc Hastings request for a 120-day extension to the public comment period on our report but stressing that the end of the comment period by no means limits opportunities for stakeholders to identify concerns and have them considered. We also secured access to county rights-of-way for additional ground water investigation work as a contingency should we have problem with obtaining access from individual property owners.

Bainbridge Island Sole Source Aquifer: As part of our ongoing response to a petition for designation of a Sole Source Aquifer on Bainbridge Island, we advised the petitioner in writing that we expect to make a final determination on the designation by no later than the end of January.

Next Week:

No items at this time.

Dan Opalski
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10